## Claims

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We claim:

- 1. A method for treating or preventing an apoptosis-related disease wherein said method comprises administering an effective amount of a protein belonging to the MK family.
- 2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said protein belonging to the MK family is midkine.
- 3. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said apoptosis-related disease is cardiopathy.
- 4. The method, according to claim 3, wherein said protein belonging to the MK family is midkine.
- 5. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said apoptosis-related disease is nephropathy.
- 6. The method, according to claim 5, wherein said protein belonging to the MK family is midkine.
- 7. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said apoptosis-related disease is hepatopathy.
- 8. The method, according to claim 7, wherein said protein belonging to the MK family is midkine.
- 9. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said apoptosis-related disease is a neurodegenerative disease.